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Homes.

Darkness broodeth o'er the earth;
No star dispels the midnight gloom;
But light springs up, of heavenly birth,
It is the peaceful light of home.
Without, the world is dark and cold;
Within, is plenty, cheer and love;
And voices mingling in the fold
With sweetest cadence float above.

Yet many sad reflections rise
At sight of outcast poor, who roam—
Unsheltered—'neath these wintry skies
Without a spot to call "my home."
Let's bid them in to share our cheer
With kindly words; our pity prove
And dry the want-begotten tear
With whispers of the home above.

Yet sweet as are domestic homes,
Those of diviner name abide,
The refuges of friendless ones
That Christian charities provide;
The latch-string hangs without the door,
Inviting every child to sin—
Unquestioned, how he came so poor—
To aid and sympathy within.

Thrice blessed is the generous heart
That prompts the bounty laden hand
To cheerfully perform its part
To prove our own a Christian land.
Thrice blessed are these beacon rests
Upon life's cold and cheerless strand,
Where those by woe and want distressed
Have foretaste of the better land.

—Mrs. J. C. Van Dyck, in Chr. Intelligencer.

Fisher's Hill, Va.

Last night we had a joyful meeting; five confessed Christ. Thirteen have been added to the church as the result of the sermons preached by our beloved brother W. L. Spanogle. The converts are of the best of people, and to mention one would be to mention all. Though I may say that Eld. E. B. Shaver's household is as that of Cornelius.

We were surprised in brother Spanogle. He is a man of far better qualifications than was expected. He should be regularly employed in the missionary work. It is no use for us to say we have no material for such work. We have plenty of it, all we lack is the work itself and the means to carry it on.

To these converts I would say in my weakness, "resist the devil, and he will flee from you." And for any one to expect the devil not to tempt us is folly. When a being is forcibly ejected from his dwelling or habitation, the next thing for him to do is to gather up reinforcement and endeavor to occupy his old habitation again; and especially so if he has had a good long lease on the place. The first battles are the hard battles in the Christian warfare. Therefore we have only to make a full and complete determination by the help of God to defeat the devil, and God will be with us. Of course there will be repeated attacks and attempts by the adversary to occupy his old place of sin, but every defeat the enemy sustains the weaker he becomes and the less apt he will be to attack until after a few hard struggles, then there will be comparatively easy defeats and smooth sailing.

Look to the stars above us and notice when they do their brightest and best work. It is not in the sunshine, but in the darkness of the night. They exist, however, and remain in their orbit while the monster sun shines, but they wait for the darkness of the night to do their best work. And when clouds come along, they simply hide behind the cloud and when it has passed by they shine out as brightly as ever again.

When there are no temptations, when all is sunshine, it does not require much will, energy and strength of character to live a Christian life. But when temptation comes, when all seems dark and dreary and there seems to be no other way but to follow the old man of sin; then it is when we should shine; then it is when we should thwart the tempter's purpose; then it is when we should turn to Christ and rely on his promises and ask his divine help and depend upon his mercy, strength and love for protection, aid and guidance. And if storms and clouds seem so thick and heavy and seem to come so fast, we have only to hush and be still (save to hold a steady reliance in Christ Jesus) for a while and all will pass over and in a little while we will be permitted to move on as smoothly as ever. Temptations are good for us; it purifies us of worldly inclinations and frees us from sin and prepares us for heaven.

When a man is entirely free from temptations he is dead in sin. Therefore count it all joy my brethren when ye fall into divers temptations saith the Lord. Also "knowing this that the trying of your faith worketh patience." We can depend upon it that nothing will be lost or that no evil will befall us so long as we trust in Christ and as His holy will. I believe the united prayers of this congregation go up to God in behalf of these converts.

I forgot to say in a former article that our new church at Maurertown will be known as Shilo, which is a synonym of Christ.

Bro. Daniel Miller's "Church Government" in last EVANGELIST should be in tract form. It would do much good I think.

The Rev. S. G. Smith, D. D., who has recently resigned his pastorate of the First Methodist Episcopal church, of New York, is determined to cut loose from creeds and intends to start a new church and to adopt the Apostle's Creed with congregational form of church government. The Rev. Alfred Mace, of Washington City, has also declared his intentions of having nothing else than the gospel-alone for the basis of his Christian belief. So we see men are beginning to cast away men's idea and getting back on the gospel platform and on God's work.

G. A. COPP.

Virginia Notes.

Our new church at Maurertown was dedicated last Sunday by Eld. William Spanogle of Pa. The indebtedness was all provided for. So now the first Brethren church from near Harrisonburg, Va., to Hagerstown, Md., starts a monument to God and the Brethren church.

Eld. Spanogle, I understand, was a lieutenant under General Sheridan during the late war. May he continue to serve the Lord and command his forces, as well as he did Sheridan's, and victory in the end will be inscribed on his and our banners. Eld. Spanogle is a man of good appearance, graceful speech and fine delivery. He has the qualities to make himself wonderfully distinguished.

The other visiting ministers present at the dedicatory services were J. F. Koontz, of Rockingham county, and Jacob Rinker, of Warren county.

Other brethren and sisters came from the above named counties, and they responded to the call to help liquidate the debt on the church.

Sister Mollie Shaver was the first one to be baptized and to confess Christ in our new church. Others are expected to follow before the meeting closes.

Those sisters at Zimmerman, Ohio, certainly deserve the highest praise for their devotion and sacrifice.

None of us know what sacrifice is compared to those sisters. None of us should say that we have sacrificed anything as long as there is a brother, not to say sister, who gives twenty five or fifty dollars for church purposes, with no means to so do other than the daily wages derived from daily work.

We have a number of good sister writers, but one among them, Sister Laura Grossnickle, of Ind., deserves much credit for her well worded essays.

The Annual for 1888 should be in the hands of every member of the church. It gives all the deaths of the church and much other important matter not to be missed for ten cents.

Sister Julia A. Wood's "Northern Travels" is worthy of being read and should be in the hands of all. It would be incomplete without her likeness and autobiography.

Bro. Garber's exposition of Trine Immersion in the last EVANGELIST is an excellent idea. I think it the best argument produced yet.

I will take upon myself to suggest to sister M. M. Sterling the names Sisters' Emma J. Funkhouser, Tom's Brook; Mollie Shaver, Maurertown; Vernon Wisman, Alonzoville; Mary Alice Stickley, St. Luke; Virginia C. Lichliter, Seven Fountains; and sister O'Flarety, whose address and first name can be obtained by writing to sister Lichliter. These person are suggested as suitable persons to assist in the organization of the Society for Christian Endeavor.

G. A. COPP.

Fisher's Hill, Va.

Huntington, Ind.

After a long silence, I shall give you a few items from this place. Had intended to be at the Convention, but failed to represent the church either by delegate or letter.

We are still in the faith, and trying to do the best we can under present surroundings. Expect to have continued services in the near future. If we can get no other aid, Bro. Summers and I expect to do what we can by the help of the Lord and the united prayers of his people.

I attended a communion service at Bro. Horner's, in the Brighton congregation, the first one I ever attended in a private house, and will say I was very well pleased with the service. The Horner's are cousins to the Beeghley's of Dayton, and have got that trait of "entertaining strangers," and making one feel at home. Would speak of the meeting, but your correspondent from there will give you the good news. The Brighton brethren are workers and by their united efforts will at some time in the future, erect a church house, and I shall be very much disappointed if the Brighton brethren do not continue to be as they are now,—a refuge for the outcast and creed-sick souls that we find in so many communities. More Gospel and less Creed, is the world's greatest need.

One sister gives it as advice, (this is not mandatory) that she thinks severe criticisms and rude personalities should be avoided among our contributors. Suppose we try it for the year, and if it don't bring better results, it will be very easy to make the change again.

I see it mildly hinted at that Bro. J. H. Worst is likely to remain in the States. I know him from days gone by, and I must say, not to flatter him at all, that it would be better for the church to keep such men as him in the harness. He has the ability, the piety, the pluck and energy to make the ministry a success, and I think we should keep him near the center. We can find a good place for him in Indiana. Shall we find it, brother John? Suppose you stop off a day or two, and renew your acquaintance. We will be glad, and will do our best to entertain you, and make it pleasant for you. (Would write you if I knew your address.)

Bro. Duke's Hand Book that I recently got is a jewel. All should read it, as practical religion is the kind the world needs.

I hear some pleasant comments on the way the Convention met the Alcohol question. That was right brethren. Never let the trumpet give an uncertain sound. If Baal (or King Alcohol) be God, let us serve him, and if not let us serve the true God, and let us do it with pure hearts fervently.

Wishing you all a Happy New Year, I am, Yours Fraternally,

R. K. BINKLEY.

Jan. 8th, 1888.

Oakville, Ind.

Perhaps there are those in other churches of the brethren that would like to know what we are doing here to advance the cause of Christ, and to help us on to that happy place where Christ has gone to prepare a place for those that follow him through evil, as well as through good report. We keep up our prayer and social meetings every Thursday night and have kept them up since the organization of the church here. We find them a great source of spiritual strength, of keeping up a brotherly love, interest in the church work generally, and a great source of encouragement to each other to help us keep in the path of duty.

We have not had preaching very regularly for sometime, as our elder lives a considerable distance from us and a very bad road in rainy weather to travel, and cannot be with us. But we hope to have from this on regular preaching, at least once a month at any rate. Bro. J. H. Swihart will commence a series of meetings here the 22nd. Our Sunday school was re-organized New Year's, and is now on its 2nd year with Bro. T. H. Johnson as superintendant. We think we have the right man in the right place and that the school will be more successful in the year that is just commenced than the one just closed. A greater interest seems to be taken in the school now, which we are glad to see. Let the good work go on and may many be brought to Christ through the instrumentality of the Sunday school. Our average attendance for last year was about 65, and think by a united effort we can raise the average this year.

Bro. W. W. Summers and wife of North Manchester, Ind., gave the brethren of Oakville, a flying visit the 13th and 14th. Preached two sermons for the brethren while here. One on the night of the 13th, and the other on Saturday morning at 10:30. Had a good congregation on Friday night, and the people were well pleased with the sermon. He left on Saturday for Eaton. We hope to see him back here again some time when he can remain longer with us.

Brethren when any of you are passing through this way stop and see us and get acquainted. Remember us in your prayers that if we do not meet here on earth that we may choose that good part and hold out faithful to the end and at last meet you in a world that is fairer than this. Yours in the hope of eternal life.

J. T. HOLSINGER.

Beatrice, Neb.

DEAR EVANGELIST:—Last week a voice came to me through the silent medium of the pen of Bro. E. Mason, that Bro. E. L. Yoder had passed through Ashland, O., on his way to Pennsylvania for a wife. Another voice came this morning from Berlin, Somerset Co., Pa., stating the marriage of Eld. E. L. Yoder, to Miss Anna Forney, Jan. 5th, A. D., 1888. God bless them.

Bro. Yoder and wife will please accept our best wishes. May prosperity attend their pathway through life. We congratulate them in the full sense of the term with all our heart. Bro. E. L. Yoder is not the first man that went to Somerset Co., Pa., on a Dear hunt. Bro. Cain, of Iowa, went there too, on a Dear hunt, and I tell you, he got one of the best women for a wife that God ever gave to man. I do not know why Bro. E. Mason did not do likewise, but Bro. Mason was a lucky man. He got a wife just as good in Ohio.

JNO. NICHOLSON.

Jan. 10th, 1888.